

Orders and rules of the waiting game

By Roger Boye

PERSONS wanting to order proof sets or uncirculated sets from the government will have to wait until orders for 1975 sets are accepted because the U. S. Mint has already received as many orders for 1974 sets as it can fill.

The Mint stopped accepting orders for 1974 proof sets on Dec. 31, 1973, about two months after it had sent out order forms. The last day the Mint accepted orders for 1974 U. S. uncirculated sets was March 1, about two months after orders were first accepted.

The Mint charges \$7 per set for proof sets, with a maximum of five per customer. Altho the Mint will make about three million 1974 proof sets, the demand for them apparently will not be satisfied. Some dealers

are already charging as much as \$20 for 1974 proof sets. Uncirculated sets are sold by the Mint for \$6 per set. The 1974 sets are being sold for as much as \$17 by some dealers.

The Mint is currently accepting orders for Eisenhower proof dollars containing 40 per cent silver at \$10 a coin. Early this summer, the Mint will begin to accept orders for Eisenhower uncirculated dollars with 40 per cent silver at \$3 per coin.

To have your name placed on the mailing list for order forms for the proof or uncirculated coins, write: Bureau of the Mint, 55 Mint St., San Francisco, Cal. 94175. The Mint will begin to send out order forms for 1975 proof sets about Nov. 1 and for 1975 uncirculated sets about Jan. 1.

Once you have ordered

coins from the Mint, you will receive order forms for future Mint offerings automatically.

Proof sets consist of a cent, nickel, dime, quarter, half-dollar, and [silverless] dollar coin. A proof coin is specially made at the Mint with carefully selected dies, which are cleaned and polished frequently during the production process. Unlike regular coinage, proof coins are struck twice and are produced at a slow rate. Proof coins have a mirror-like surface and are sealed in precase plastic containers.

An uncirculated set contains a cent, nickel, dime, quarter, half-dollar, and [silverless] dollar from both the Philadelphia and Denver Mints, and a cent from the San Francisco Assay Office. The sets are made up of coins from regular produc-

tion, altho the Mint tries to select only those coins which are well struck and free of imperfections.

Individuals cannot obtain proof or mint sets from past years from the Mint. Such sets would have to be purchased from coin collectors or coin dealers.

"Modern" proof sets were made starting in 1936. Only 3,837 proof sets were made in 1936 which today sell for more than \$1,000 each.

The Mint has made proof coins since the early 1800s, altho proof coins before 1855 are exceedingly rare. Proof coins issued thru 1907 have frosted designs on a mirror-like background. From 1908 until 1916, the Mine experimented with a proof coin which had a granular sandblast surface. The Mint did not make proof coins from 1917 until 1935.